

B-1725

MAG#041725604

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

## NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

B-1725

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
|--|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1. NAME</b>   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| COMMON:  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| 1129 N. Calvert Street   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Bureau of Recreation   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| STREET AND NUMBER:   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| 1129 N. Calvert Street   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| CITY OR TOWN:  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Baltimore  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| STATE:   |  |  | COUNTY:   |  |                                     |
| Maryland   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| <b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  |  | OWNERSHIP                                  |   | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public | Public Acquisition:                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied     | Yes:                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site  | <input type="checkbox"/> Structure             | <input type="checkbox"/> Private           | <input type="checkbox"/> In Process                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied              | <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Object  | <input type="checkbox"/> Both                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered  | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> No         |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments                |                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial            | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)                  |  |                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military              | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         |   |  |                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment   | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        |   |  |                                     |
| <b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| OWNER'S NAME:  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Mayor & City Council of Baltimore City   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| STREET AND NUMBER:   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| 7th Floor, 131 E. Redwood Street   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| CITY OR TOWN:  |  |  | STATE:  |  |                                     |
| Baltimore  |  |  | Maryland  |  | 21202                               |
| <b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Records Office, Room 601   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| STREET AND NUMBER:   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Baltimore City Courthouse  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| CITY OR TOWN:  |  |  | STATE:  |  |                                     |
| Baltimore  |  |  | Maryland  |  | 21202                               |
| Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): MLD 6028/69  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| <b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| TITLE OF SURVEY:   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey  |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| DATE OF SURVEY: 1975 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Commission for Hist. & Arch. Pres.   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| STREET AND NUMBER:   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| Room 900, 26 S. Calvert Street   |  |  |   |  |                                     |
| CITY OR TOWN:  |  |  | STATE:  |  |                                     |
| Baltimore  |  |  | Maryland  |  | 21202                               |

| 7. DESCRIPTION  |   |                                    |   |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| CONDITION   | (Check One)                                   |                                    |   |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair                     |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins     | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed                |
|   | (Check One)                                   |                                    | (Check One)                                       |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved                    |
|   |   |                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE  |   |                                    |   |
| <p>This mansion located on the southeast corner of E. Biddle and N. Calvert Streets is three stories high, five bays wide, and dates from the mid to late 1800's. Architecturally, the house represents a transitional style blending elements of the Queen Ann and early French Chateau periods. The brick exterior (laid in running bond) is accented by stone lintels, sills, belt courses and a decorative turret.</p> <p>A bay window is placed on the north side of the house from the first to second floor. The other significant architectural element of the mansion, the doorway, is flanked by two pilasters. Four stone steps lead to the doorway. A cornice crowns the doorway which is surmounted by a three-section light.</p> <p>Symmetrical fenestration, proportionally scaled from first to third floors, punctuates the facade. The windows are single hung with one light and over lights. Dormer windows (one containing one window, the other the other three windows topped by a pointed pediment, are placed in the gable roof, and pilasters are applied on the sides of each window.</p> <p>A stone cornice adorns the roofline. In addition to the dormers, brick chimneys on the northern and eastern sides of the house are the other significant feature of the building profile.</p> |   |                                    |   |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## B. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Once part of a large parcel of land owned by railroad magnate Robert Garret, Block 498 was subdivided, beginning in 1873 and sold to individual builders.

CALVERT STREET

The earliest structure remaining on the block is the John S. Gilman house at the corner of Calvert and Biddle Streets, dating C. 1890. This fine example of Queen Anne and early French Chateau styling was undoubtedly influenced by the nearby Winans house, designed by Stanford White, and completed in 1887 at St. Paul and Preston Streets.

Begun in the same year as the Gilman House were the eight houses at 1127-1113 N. Calvert Street, an impressive Romanesque Revival row. Conceived of and executed as a single architectural unit, the individually styled houses, built by speculator Henry James, are arranged symmetrically in a 2-4-2 pattern. They comprise one of the finest of many such rows of the period in Mt. Vernon and the rest of Baltimore.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Cleora B. Thompson, Survey Coordinator

Bill Pencek, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Commission for Hist. &amp; Arch. Pres.

10/21/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

Room 900, 26 S. Calvert Street

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

Baltimore

Maryland

21202

## 12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

## History of 1129 North Calvert Street

On April 3, 1889, John S. Gilman acquired a parcel of ground 50' x 153'10" at the southeast corner of Calvert and Biddle Streets (Land Records JFC 1236-24). John S. Gilman (1830-11/16/1889) was the President of the Second National Bank, located on Broadway in Fells Point. He was born in Hallowell, Maine and came to Baltimore at age 20. He went into the iron business, first in the firm of Gilman, Chadbourne and Company and later with Abbott Iron Company which had mills at Canton. He married Ellen Abbott, but she died a year after the marriage. His second wife was Eliza Weyl. They had two daughters: the future Mrs. D'Arcy Paul and Miss Miriam Gilman. Gilman, a Republican, was a director for many important local business concerns, including: Savings Bank of Baltimore, Baltimore Copper Company, Consolidated Gas Company, Canton Company and Provident Savings Bank (Baltimore Sun Obituary 11/18/1889).

According to the Manufacturers' Record of August 17, 1889, Gilman was to build a three-story dwelling on the land to cost \$40,000. The architect for the house was Charles L. Carson and the contractors were Hiltz and Pratz. Charles L. Carson (1847-1891) was the son of David Carson, the developer of Waverly Terrace of Franklin Square. One of the major architects of the Mid-Atlantic states in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Carson designed some of Baltimore's most notable buildings: Goucher Hall, the old Enoch Pratt Free Library Building (demolished) and the first six branches of the library, Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church, Strawbridge Methodist Church, Equitable ~~Bank~~<sup>Building</sup>, Central Savings Bank, and the Strouse (loft) building, now undergoing rehabilitation at Paca and Lombard Streets. Carson was associated with other important local architects such as Thomas Dixon and Joseph Evans Sperry.

John S. Gilman died before the house was complete, but his widow lived there for several years. In the fall of 1897, the house was bought by William Painter (Land Records RO 1696-54). Painter(11/20/1838 - 7/15/1906) was born in Triadelphia, Montgomery County, Maryland. As a child he lived at Herring Run near Baltimore and in Fallston, Harford County. He later studied and apprenticed at Wilmington Delaware. In 1859 he married Harriet Deacon. They soon moved back to Fallston. Painter was a Quaker and did not fight in the Civil War. In 1865, the Painters moved to Baltimore. William Painter was employed as a mechanical engineer for the firm of Murrill and Keizer, but he was primarily an inventor. In 1885 he invented a new type of bottle stopper and established the Bottle Seal Company. He perfected the bottle cap in 1892 and soon founded the Crown Cork and Seal Company. Painter is generally credited as the inventor of the bottle cap, and Crown Cork and Seal became a huge enterprise virtually overnight. The Painter family moved into the house at 1129 North Calvert Street in November of 1897. They also had a house, the Colonies, in Pikesville. Painter bought another home at 204 Ridgewood Road in 1906, but died the same year.

According to the 1900 Census (ED 172, Ward 13, Sheet 18) Mr. and Mrs. Painter, a son and daughter and four servants (two maids, a cook and a coachman) lived at 1129 North Calvert Street. In 1910, (Census Field Book 1910, ED 157 Ward 11 Sheet 21A) Mrs. Painter, her son and a maid lived in the house. The house was sold in 1919 to Dr. Thomas Futcher. He lived in the house and had his office here. It was turned over to a Medical Holding Company in 1928, headed by Dr. Herbert E. Laroque. Among the doctors that



History of 1129 North Calvert Street  
Page 2

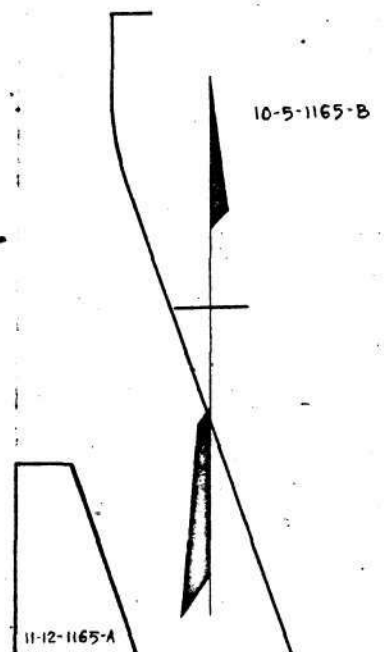
had offices here in the late 1920s and early 1930s were Doctors Joseph E. Gately, Thomas H. Hayward, Thomas K. Galvin, and Frank D. Morain(?). In 1936, the house was bought by Playground Athletic League (Land Records SCL 5657-270). They are reported to have bought the building for \$18,000. The Playground Athletic League was established in 1922 when the Childrens Playground Association and the Public Athletic League merged. The Childrens Playground Association was founded in 1897 to direct the play of children and to encourage the development of play facilities in Baltimore. The Public Athletic League was started in 1903 as the Public Parks Gymnasium and founded by Robert Garrett, one of the first U.S. Olympic athletes and a noted Baltimore businessman. The Public Athletic League (P.A.L.) held competitive athletic contests for young people in Baltimore's parks. The newly organized Playground Athletic League was a private organization that supervised free play for children, organized competitions for adolescents, and also held adult recreation activities.

In 1937, a Mayoral Commission recommended the establishment of a municipal agency to be called the Department of Public Recreation. It was decided that public recreation should be administered by the Baltimore City government, rather than several private groups which at times duplicated services. The Mayor's Recreation Commission was headed by Robert Garrett and included Dr. Donald Hooker, Paul E. Burke, Walter Sondheim, Robert Stinson, Henry E. Corner and William H. McAbee. They appointed Harold S. Callowhill, the former director of the P.A.L., as the first director of the Department of Public Recreation. This new department took over the former activities of the P.A.L., Colored Division of Recreation, Baltimore Amateur Athletic Council, and the South Baltimore, Roosevelt Park and Carroll Mansion Recreation Centers.

With the establishment of this new municipal agency, in 1940 the P.A.L. donated the building at 1129 North Calvert Street to the City of Baltimore. In 1946, the Department of Public Recreation, Department of Municipal Music and the Board of Park Commissioners merged to form the present day Department of Recreation and Parks. This building has been used by the Department of Recreation and Parks since 1940. In 1969, the adjoining rowhouses at 1125-27 North Calvert Street were also acquired by the City of Baltimore as an annex to this structure.

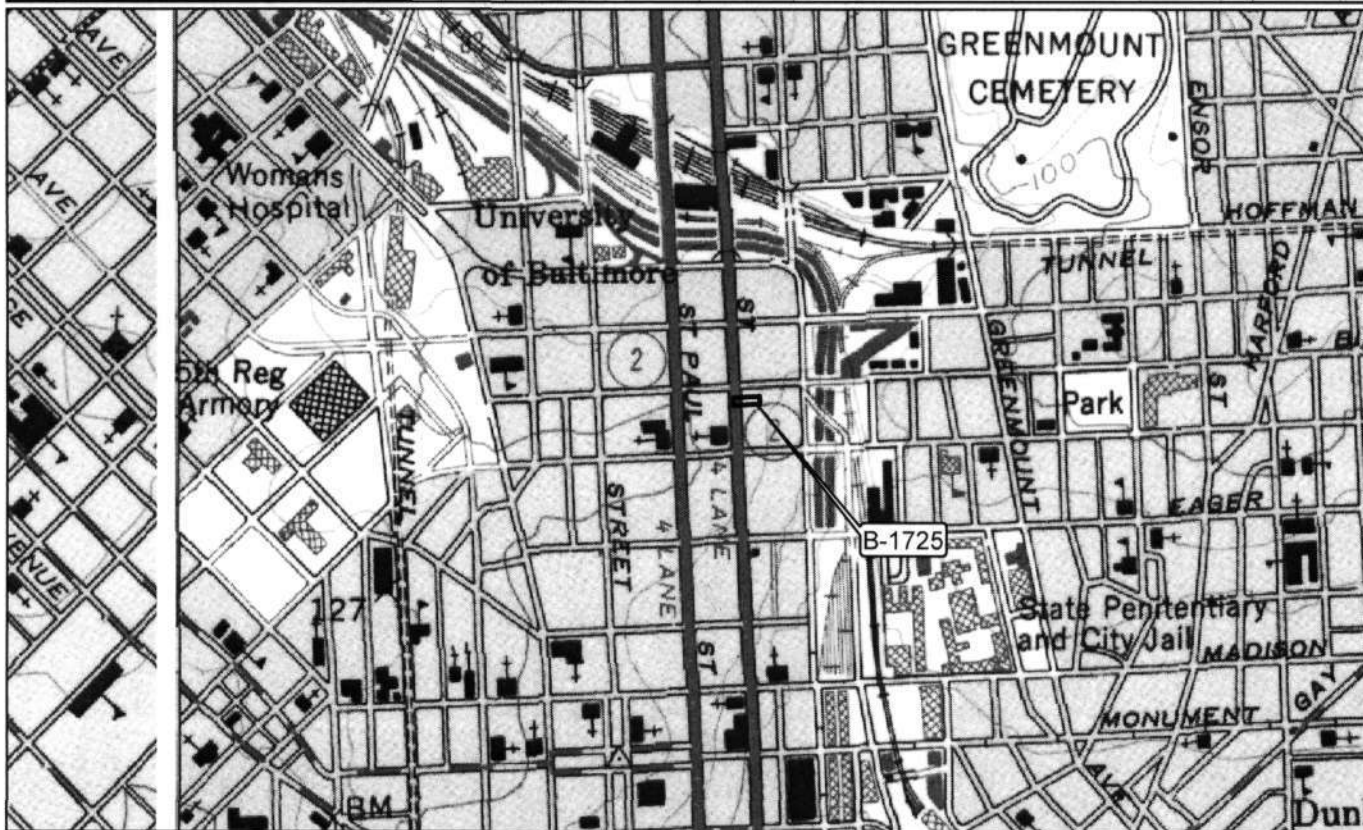
Prepared by,  
Fred B. Shoken  
Commission for Historical &  
Architectural Preservation  
December 1985

B-1725



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS  
PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION  
WARD 11 SECTION 12  
BLOCK 498  
SCALE: 1" = 60 FT. DATE: 10/1/1911

GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS







1129 N. CALVERT  
BUREAU OF REC

B-1725

CB Thompson  
July, 1975

MEC 14A  
BIF 498